

WO 2004/084365 A3

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
30 September 2004 (30.09.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/084365 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: H01S 3/067 Newburgh, Bldg A22/162, Dorchester Dorset DT2 8XJ (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2004/001034 (74) Agent: BOWDERY, A., O.; QinetiQ Limited, Cody Technology Park, A4 Building, Room G016, Ively Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0LX (GB).

(22) International Filing Date: 11 March 2004 (11.03.2004) (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 0306137.1 18 March 2003 (18.03.2003) GB

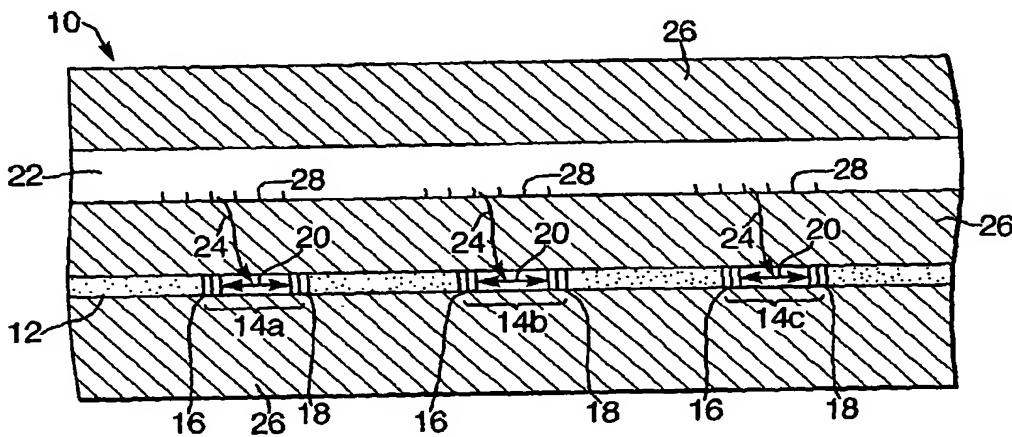
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: OPTICAL FIBRE



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to optical fibres, fibre lasers, fibre laser arrays and sensor systems comprising fibre laser arrays. Conventional fibre laser sensor arrangements comprise a plurality of fibre lasers arranged in series along a length of optical fibre. A pump light source is located at one end of the fibre and supplies pump light energy to each of the fibre lasers in turn. Such sensor systems experience a number of disadvantages. Firstly, there is an uneven distribution of pump power along the length of the fibre which effectively limits the number of laser devices that can successfully be incorporated into the optical fibre array. Secondly, the manner in which existing sensor systems are constructed often results in back reflections, optical losses and mechanical weaknesses. The present invention provides a fibre laser which mitigates the above problems with fibre laser sensor arrays.



Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

3 February 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No
PCT/GB2004/001034A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01S3/067

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H01S G01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 October 2004

24/11/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte
al Application No
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